

Philby Said To Propose Spy Trade

Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, Dec. 19 — Harold Adrian (Kim) Philby, the Soviet agent who once held high posts in the British intelligence service, reportedly has offered to withdraw his memoirs if Britain agrees to an exchange of spies with the Russians.

The report appeared in The London Sunday Times this week in an article by Murray Sayle, a free-lance writer who said he had several conversations with Philby during a recent trip to Moscow.

Sayle quoted Philby as suggesting that Helen and Peter Kroger be swapped for Gerald Brooke, a young Englishman who had been serving an espionage sentence in Russia since 1965. In 1961, the British sentenced the Krogers to 20 years in prison for spying.

In a note accompanying Sayle's article, the Sunday Times said it had turned down an opportunity to publish an 80,000-word manuscript by Philby.

It said it had taken this decision because memoirs by Philby—an admitted officer in the KGB, or Soviet secret police, who fled to Moscow in 1963—"could only be a deliberate attempt to damage Western interests, including Western intelligence organizations."

In ascertaining what the manuscript was, the newspaper continued, it turned out that it was not simply Philby's memoirs—"but rather an indictment of Western secret operations against the Soviet Union, 1945-55."

Last October, the Sunday

Times and the London Observer published a series of articles on Philby's 30-year career as a top Soviet agent in the West. The series proved an embarrassment to British and American intelligence agencies and drew sharp criticism from George Brown, the British Foreign Secretary.

In his article, Sayle quoted Philby as saying the main part of his book dealt with his work in the British intelligence service, the CIA and the FBI.

"I name the colleagues I was involved with," Philby is quoted as saying, "but not in an unkind way, I hope. Just setting down the facts. I think the truth should come out."

His Own Idea

In answer to a question from Sayle, Philby said the idea of exchanging the Krogers for Brooke was his own, not that of his superiors in the KGB.

"Our position is that the Krogers are innocent of the charges on which they were convicted," he said. "We hear that they are deteriorating in prison. . . . I feel I would like to do whatever I can personally to get these people out."

Philby described Brooke as "a poor silly fellow" who got involved with the NTS ("The People's Labor Front," a Russian refugee organization).

He said the KGB had penetrated the NTS so thoroughly that the very first person Brooke contacted in it was an agent of the Soviet government.

The NTS was once financed by British intelligence, Philby said. Sometime about 1950, he continued, he personally had supervised its transferal to the CIA's sphere of activity. Thus, he said, the British and Americans would have to decide among themselves who wanted Brooke back.